Price rise of fertilizers

2296. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether prices of fertilizers are constantly increasing in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government is aware and has received complaints about adulteration and black marketing of fertilizers and sale of spurious pesticides in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of defaulters arrested during the last three years; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to check adulteration and black marketing of fertilizers and sale of spurious pesticides and to contain the fertilizer prices in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) and (b) The Maximum Retail Prices (MRPs) of subsidized fertilizers in the country has remained constant for the last more than six years. Rather, indicative MRPs of complex fertilizers subsidized under the Concession Scheme of Government of India have been reduced with effect from 18th June, 2008.

(c) to (e) Under Clause 21 of the Fertilizer (Control) Order, 1985 (FCO), it is mandatory to print the Maximum Retail Price (MRP) on the bags of fertilizer and no person is permitted to sell the material above the statutory/indicative price. The State Governments are adequately empowered under the provisions of the Fertilizer (Control) Order, 1985 to check such activities. Any violation of the provision of the FCO, 1985 attracts penal/administrative action under the Essential Commodities Act 1955/FCO, 1985. State Governments have been advised to prevent such malpractices and ensure that the farmers are provided with proper quality of fertilizers at statutory/indicative price.

Decline in production of fertilizers

2297. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a decline in the production of fertilizers;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action taken to increase the production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) to (c) No Sir. There is no decline in the production of fertilizers during the first quarter of the current year. Details of production of major fertilizers during the first quarter (April-June, 09) as compared to corresponding period of previous year are given below:—